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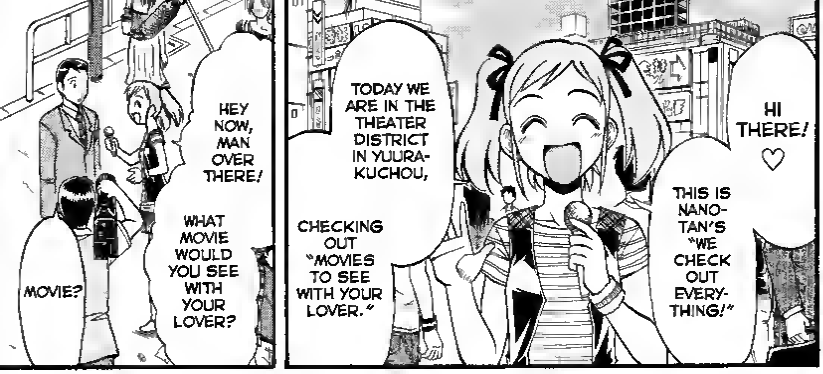
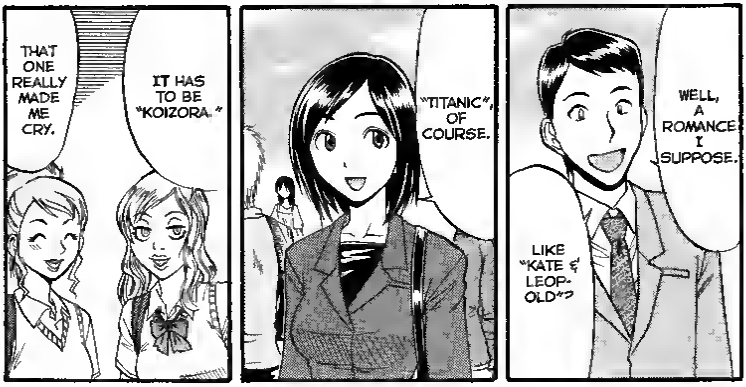
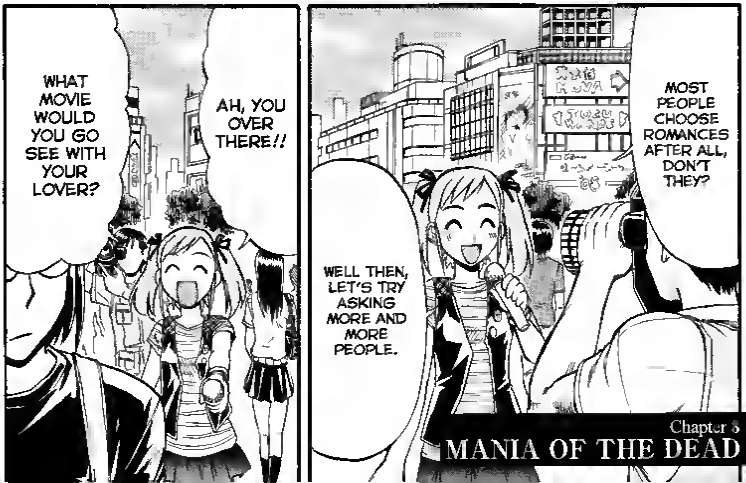
UNDEAD

BY KAZUO INOUE

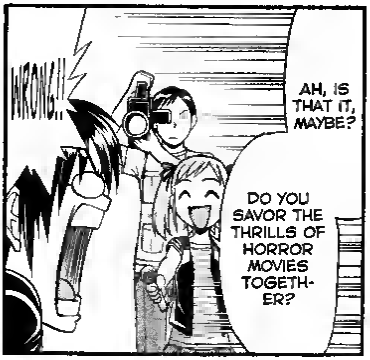
CHAPTER 8: MANIA OF THE DEAD

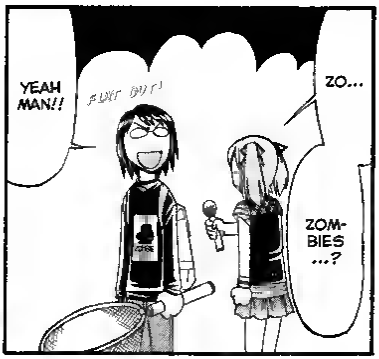

HEY NOW, MAN OVER THERE!
WHAT MOVIE WOULD YOU SEE WITH YOUR LOVER?
MOVIE?
TODAY WE ARE IN THE THEATER DISTRICT IN YUURA-KUCHOU,
CHECKING OUT "MOVIES TO SEE WITH YOUR LOVER."
HI THERE! ♡
THIS IS NANO-TAN'S "WE CHECK OUT EVERY-THING!"


THAT ONE REALLY MADE ME CRY.
IT HAS TO BE "KOIZORA."
"TITANIC", OF COURSE.
WELL, A ROMANCE I SUPPOSE.
LIKE "KATE & LEOP-OLD"?

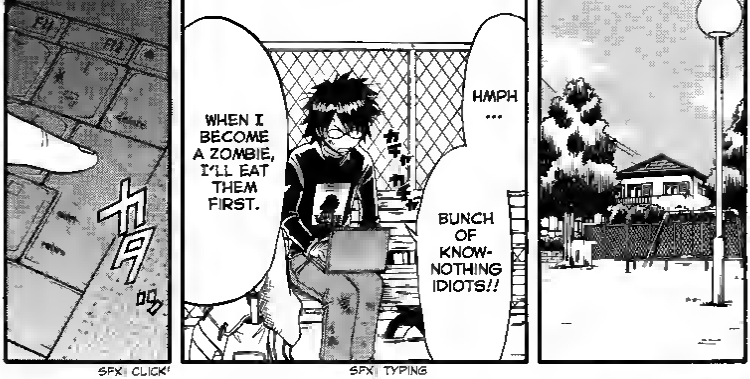

WHAT MOVIE WOULD YOU GO SEE WITH YOUR LOVER?
AH, YOU OVER THERE!!
MOST PEOPLE CHOOSE ROMANCES AFTER ALL, DON'T THEY?
WELL THEN, LET'S TRY ASKING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.

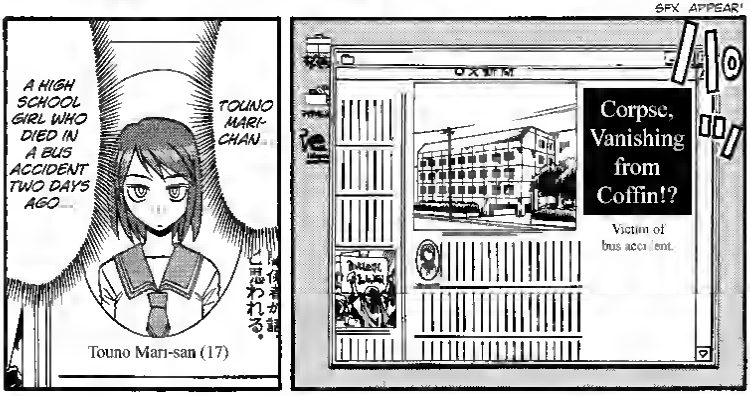
Chapter 8
MANIA OF THE DEAD

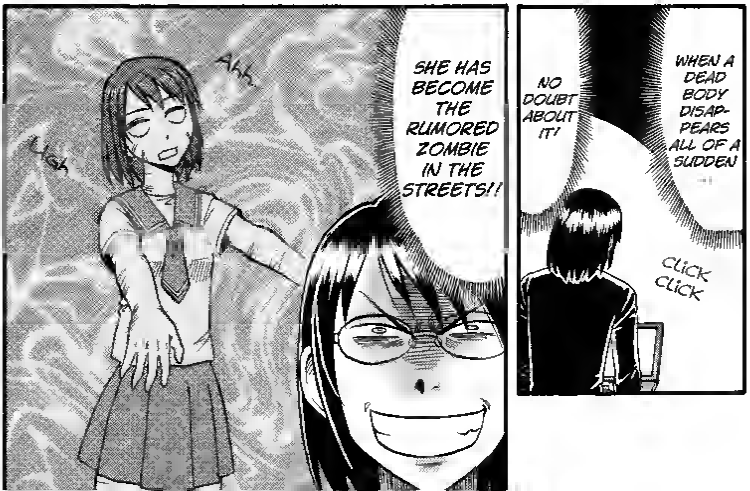


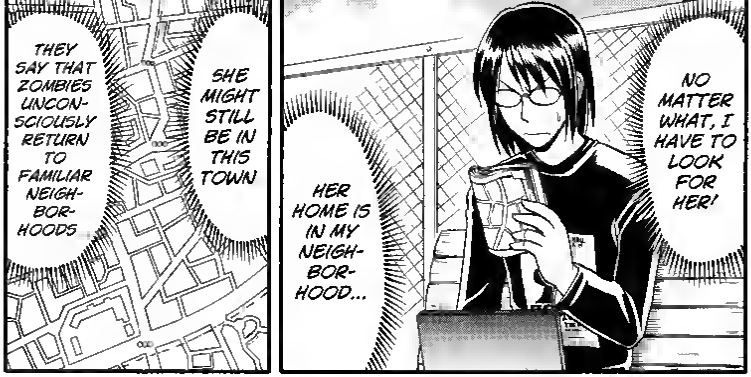


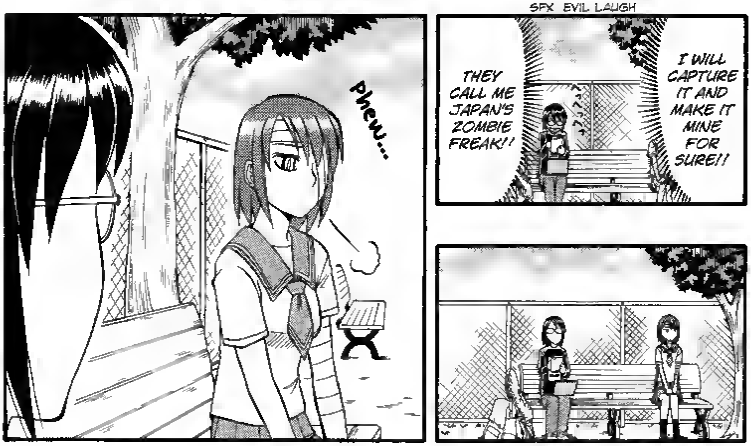
SFX
HEH
HEH
HEH
フッ、フッ、フッ
LIVING CORPSES DESTROY THE ORDER OF SOCIETY AND USHER IN THE END OF THE WORLD...
SUCH MAGNIFICENT CHARACTERS...
OF ALL THE GENRE, IT IS THE BEST MOVIE!!
THAT IS NOT A HORROR FILM AT ALL!!
IT IS THE STORY OF THE RISE OF THE ZOMBIES AND THEIR CONFLICT WITH THE HUMANS REMAINING AFTER THE CATASTROPHE!
I'M GLAD I WAS BORN IN THIS WORLD!!
THE WORLD I DREAMED OF IS BECOMING REALITY!
IT MUST BE A MIRACLE!!
WHAT'S MORE, DOESN'T IT SEEM THEY'VE BEGUN TO APPEAR IN REALITY LATELY!?
CUT! CUUUTTT!!
LOOK HERE!! IT'S RUDE OF YOU TO ASK ME A QUESTION AND THEN IGNORE ME!!
GRR...
DON'T LET THAT GUY NEAR NONO-TAN!!
STAFF
.....
SIR, WHAT MOVIE WOULD YOU SEE WITH YOUR LOVER?

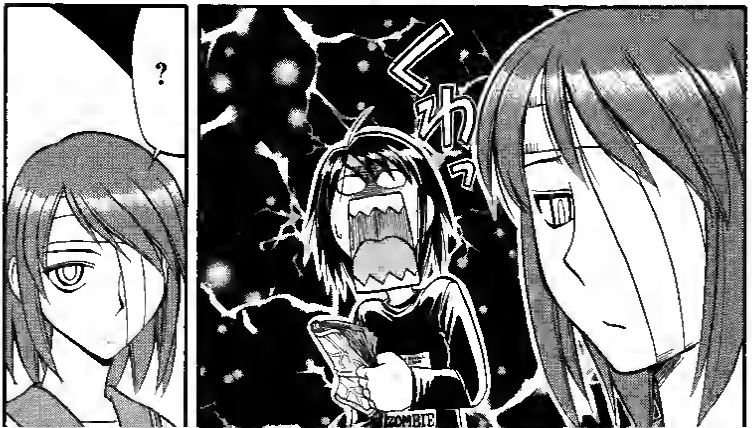

SFX: CLICK!
WHEN I BECOME A ZOMBIE, I'LL EAT THEM FIRST.
HMPH ...
BUNCH OF KNOW-NOTHING IDIOTS!!
SFX: TYPING


SFX: APPEAR!
A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO DIED IN A BUS ACCIDENT TWO DAYS AGO...
TOUNO MARI-CHAN...
Touno Mari-san (17)
Corpse, Vanishing from Coffin!?
Victim of bus accident.


AAH.
UGH.
SHE HAS BECOME THE RUMORED ZOMBIE IN THE STREETS!!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
WHEN A DEAD BODY DISAP-PEARS ALL OF A SUDDEN
CLICK CLICK

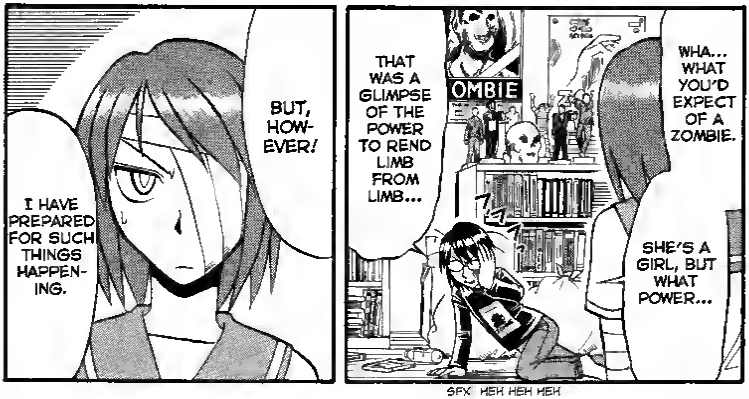

NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE TO LOOK FOR HER!
HER HOME IS IN MY NEIGH-BOR-HOOD...
SHE MIGHT STILL BE IN THIS TOWN
THEY SAY THAT ZOMBIES UNCON-SCIOUSLY RETURN TO FAMILIAR NEIGH-BOR-HOODS


SFX: EVIL LAUGH
I WILL CAPTURE IT AND MAKE IT MINE FOR SURE!!
THEY CALL ME JAPAN'S ZOMBIE FREAK!!
Phew...

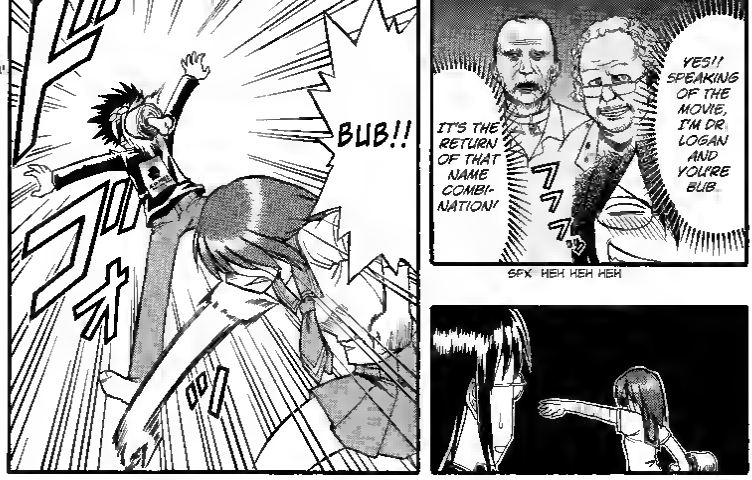

?
くわっ
ZOMBIE

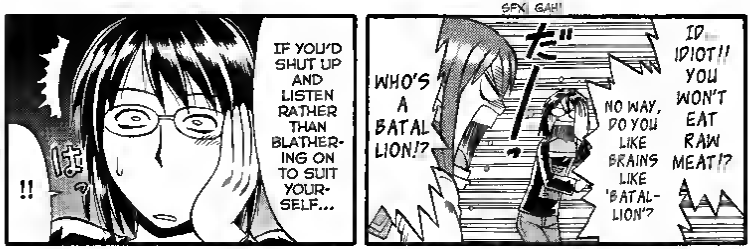
I FINALLY DID IT!!
洋画秘宝
HEH HEH HEH...
HEH...
ZOMBIE
SFX: YES
I GOT IT!!
A REAL ZOMBIE, HERE IN MY ROOM,
THIS IS BETTER THAN ALL THE ZOMBIE GOODS I'VE COLLECTED SO FAR!!
NO COLLECTION IS BETTER THAN THE REAL THING!!
LOOSEN
LOOSEN

NOW!! LOOK UPON ME, ZOMBIE-CHAN!!
WITH THAT DEAR, LIVING DEAD FACE!!
SFX: TOSS ASIDE

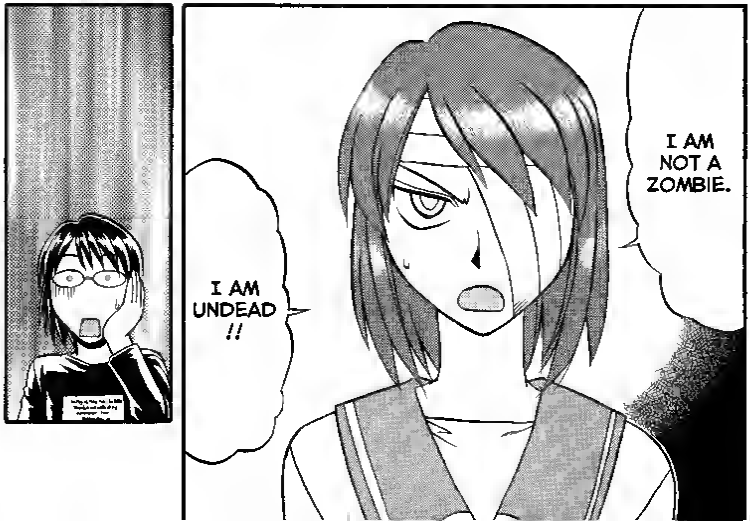

WHA... WHAT YOU'D EXPECT OF A ZOMBIE.
SHE'S A GIRL, BUT WHAT POWER...
THAT WAS A GLIMPSE OF THE POWER TO REND LIMB FROM LIMB...
BUT, HOW-EVER!
I HAVE PREPARED FOR SUCH THINGS HAPPEN-ING.
SFX: HEH HEH HEH

IT WAS HOW THEY TRAINED THE ZOMBIES IN "DAY OF THE DEAD!!"
FIRST OF ALL, TAME THEM BY SATISFY-ING THEIR APPETITE!
Heh heh heh
ISN'T THIS MEAT DRIPPING WITH BLOOD DELI-CIOUS?
HOW ABOUT THIS: YOUR FAVORITE RAW MEAT?



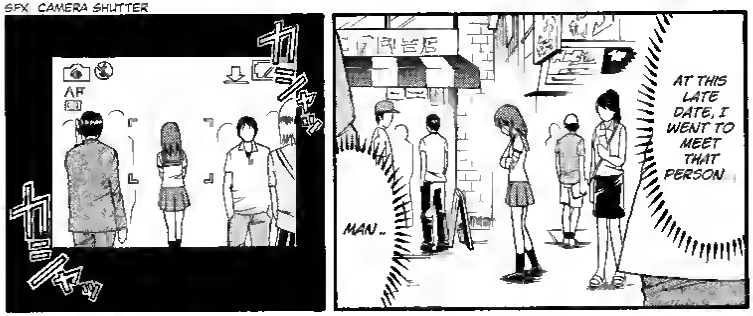

SFX: GAH!
SFX: HUH?
IF YOU'D SHUT UP AND LISTEN RATHER THAN BLATHER-ING ON TO SUIT YOUR-SELF...
!!
WHO'S A BATAL LION!?
NO WAY, DO YOU LIKE BRAINS LIKE 'BATAL-LION'?
ID- IDIOT!! YOU WON'T EAT RAW MEAT!?

T/N: THE MOVIE "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD" WAS CALLED "BATTALION" IN JAPAN. AND WITH TIME THE WORD "OBATARIAN" CAME INTO USE, WITH REFERENCE TO AN OLDER LADY (OBASAN) WITH A BAD ATTITUDE.

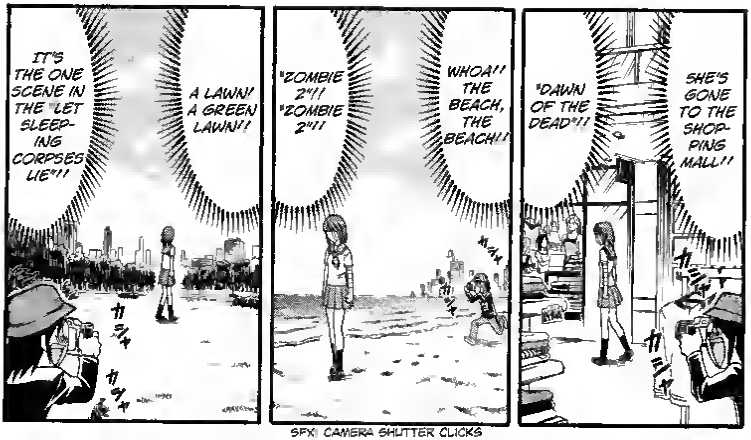


THOUGH WE'RE DEAD, WE CAN TALK, AND WE CAN THINK TOO!!
DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT THE UNDEAD !?
DIDN'T I JUST SAY I'M NOT A ZOMBIE!?
Wow Wow Wow
IT... IT TALKED ...
A ZOMBIE TALKED !?
ZOMBIE
CRYING THAT MUCH...?
MAN~~ WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU'RE COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'D IMAGINED.
SFX: SOBBING
WE DON'T!
THEN, THEN EATING PEOPLE ...
NO, WE, DON'T !!
BITING AND INFECT-ING...
SFX: TICKED OFF
YOU CAN DIE TOO!!
I WILL LEAVE WHETHER YOU TELL ME TO OR NOT, IDIOT!!
I'M GOING TO BED!
COULD YOU TURN OFF THE LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE?

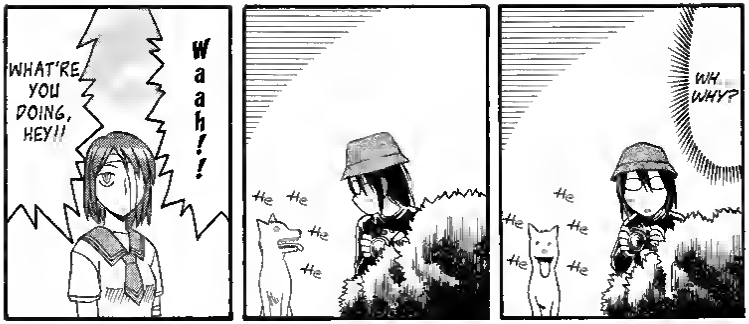
..BE THAT AS IT MAY..
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO FROM HERE ON OUT?
HAVING BECOME ONE OF THE UNDEAD..
WITHOUT ANY REGRETS, IN A BODY LIKE THIS,
AT THIS LATE DATE

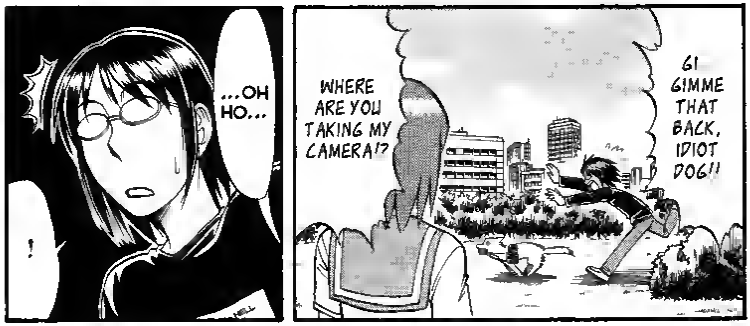

SFX CAMERA SHUTTER
AT THIS LATE DATE, I WENT TO MEET THAT PERSON
MAN..

HEH HEH HEH, SWEET, MARI-CHAN...
YOU WON'T GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY!
THOUGH YOU HAVE A DIFFER-ENT NAME, YOU'RE STILL A LIVING CORPSE...
I WILL NOT MISS A SINGLE SCENE AS YOU WANDER AROUND TOWN!
LET ME GET PLENTY OF GOOD PIC-TURES!!



SFX: CAMERA SHUTTER CLICKS

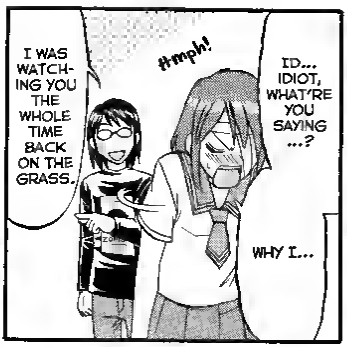

Waah!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HEY!!
He He He He
WH WHY?
He He He He


...OH HO...
!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING MY CAMERA!?
GI GIMME THAT BACK, IDIOT DOG!!

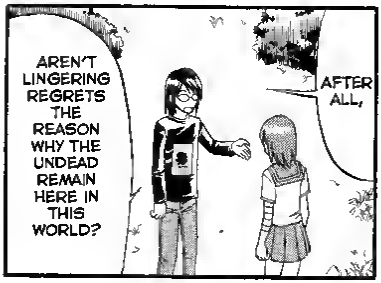
SFX: WHACK, WHACK
WAAH, HOLD ON! WAIT!!
THIS HENTAI GETS TO DIE!! OTAKU!! FOOL!!
ボカ ボカ

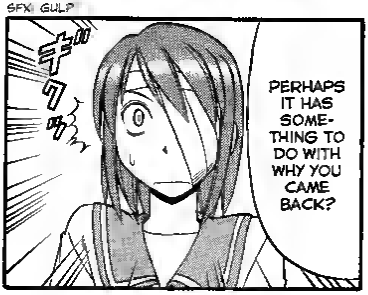
SFX: KNUCKLES CRACKING
YOU'VE BEEN TAILING ME WITH THAT CAMERA ...
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SNEAKING PICTURES ALL THIS TIME?
ボキ ボキ ベキ

I WASN'T CRYING, I WASN'T CRYING !!
AH

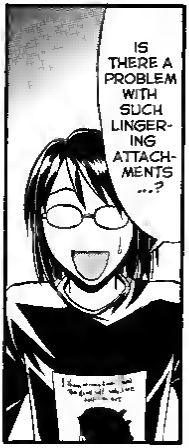

I WAS WATCHING YOU THE WHOLE TIME BACK ON THE GRASS.
#mph!
ID... IDIOT, WHAT'RE YOU SAYING ...?
WHY I...

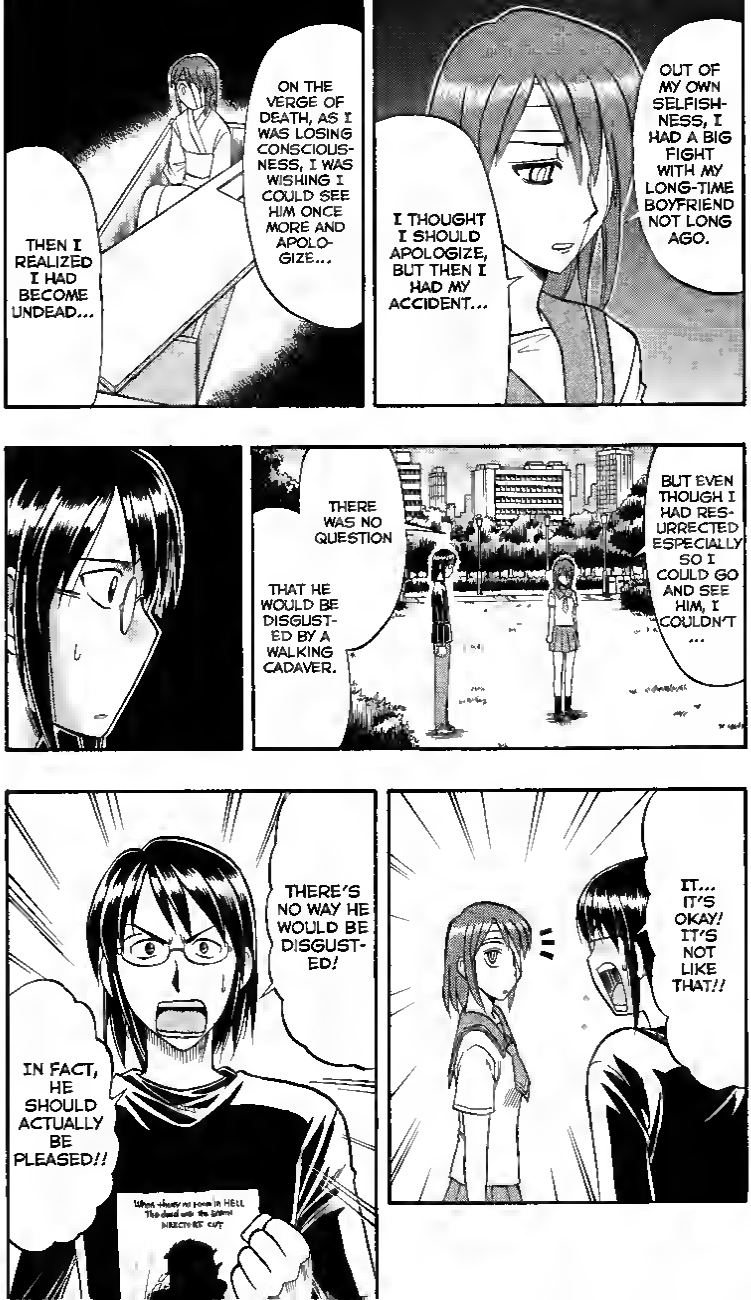
JUST NOW... WERE YOU CRYING ?
!!

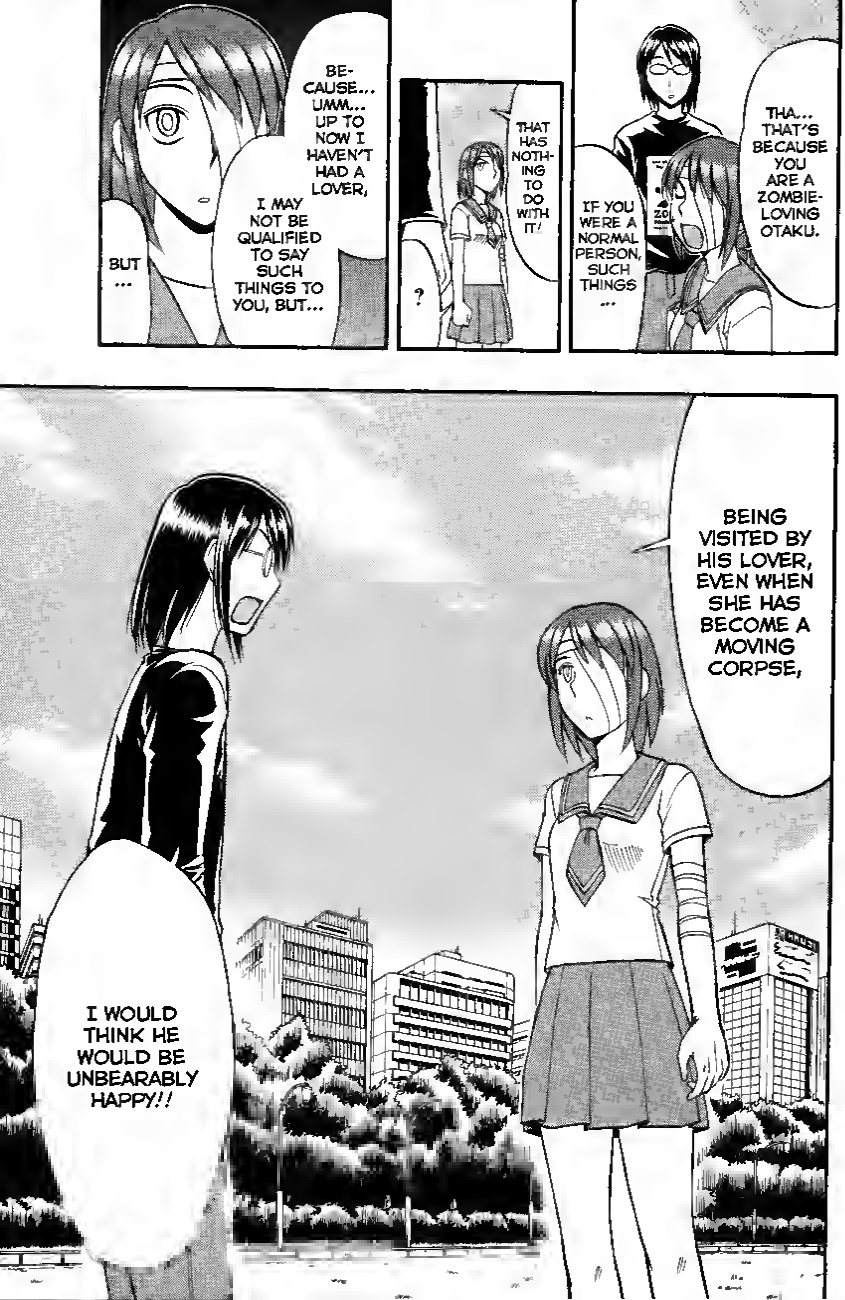

AREN'T LINGERING REGRETS THE REASON WHY THE UNDEAD REMAIN HERE IN THIS WORLD?
AFTER ALL,


SFX: GULP
PERHAPS IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHY YOU CAME BACK?

...YES, THERE IS.


IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH SUCH LINGERING ATTACHMENTS ...?


ON THE VERGE OF DEATH, AS I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, I WAS WISHING I COULD SEE HIM ONCE MORE AND APOLOGIZE...
THEN I REALIZED I HAD BECOME UNDEAD...
OUT OF MY OWN SELFISHNESS, I HAD A BIG FIGHT WITH MY LONG-TIME BOYFRIEND NOT LONG AGO.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE, BUT THEN I HAD MY ACCIDENT...
THERE WAS NO QUESTION
THAT HE WOULD BE DISGUSTED BY A WALKING CADAVER.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAD RESURRECTED ESPECIALLY SO I COULD GO AND SEE HIM, I COULDN'T ...
THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD BE DISGUSTED!
IN FACT, HE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE PLEASED!!
IT... IT'S OKAY! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!


THA... THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A ZOMBIE-LOVING OTAKU.
IF YOU WERE A NORMAL PERSON, SUCH THINGS ...
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
?
BE-CAUSE... UMM... UP TO NOW I HAVEN'T HAD A LOVER,
I MAY NOT BE QUALIFIED TO SAY SUCH THINGS TO YOU, BUT...
BUT ...
BEING VISITED BY HIS LOVER, EVEN WHEN SHE HAS BECOME A MOVING CORPSE,
I WOULD THINK HE WOULD BE UNBEARABLY HAPPY!!

HMPH...
ZOMBIE
.....
SO GO AHEAD!
GO TO WHERE THE ONE YOU LOVE IS!

...WELL THEN, I'M GOING.
YE... YES.
SWIFF...
I GET IT! I SHOULD GO, RIGHT?

I'VE COME BACK FOR THAT REASON...
THAT'S WHAT UNDEAD ARE, RIGHT?
GOOD GRIEF. I'VE REALLY GONE DOWN-HILL.
TO THINK I'D BE ADMON-ISHED BY AN OTAKU LIKE YOU.
Ha ha ha
NO
BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE SOME-HOW MADE UP MY MIND
...BUT,

...AH,
YES, THEY ARE.

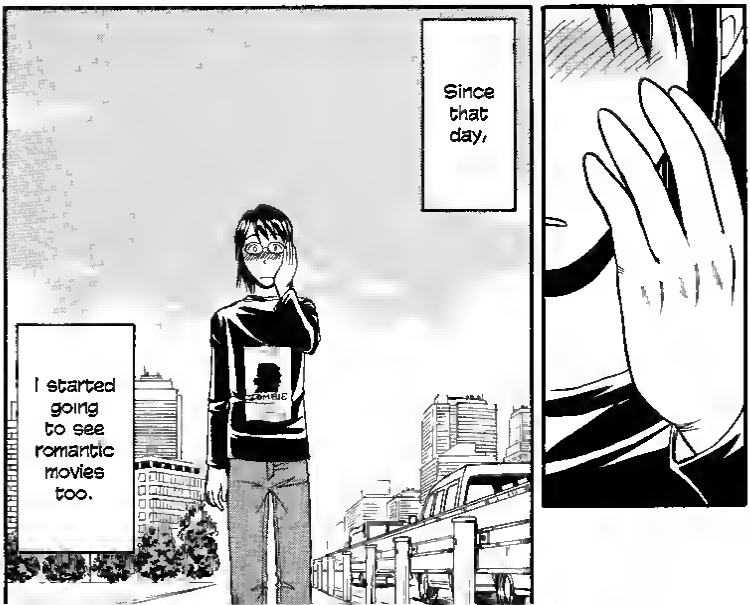
MARI-CHAN...

?

HOLD UP A SECOND !!
LET'S GO HOME QUICK AND WATCH THOSE FOUR ROMERO MOVIES
MY LIFE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ROMANCE...

AH, JEEZ, I'VE GONE AND DONE SOME-THING NOT LIKE ME
I'VE HAD NO INTEREST IN ANY-THING BUT ZOMBIES UP TO NOW
SCRTCH SCRTCH
ZOMBIE

THANKS!
chuu...
ZOMBIE


Since that day,
I started going to see romantic movies too.